



Some Notes on D. Zarelli



by Ronald Greene
(token courtesy of Dick Powell)

In the May/June edition of the ATC&PN Ron Benice listed a number of Mystery Tokens which included one name that was familiar to Les Hill and myself, D. Zarelli. Diamante (Jim) Zarelli was a well known Prince Rupert hotelkeeper. My first hopes were that the token was mis-attributed to Anchorage and that it might be a Prince Rupert piece. However, subsequent correspondence with Ron Benice dashed those hopes as the token said Anchorage. Further Ron said it was believed to be c. 1918

I first checked the various city directory listings and found Diamante Zarelli in Prince Rupert in 1914, but keep in mind that the directories between 1905 and 1918 are infrequent and often very incomplete. Interestingly enough there was a gap from 1920 to 1924 when Zarelli was not listed in Prince Rupert, although he showed up again in 1925 and was subsequently listed until he retired to Vancouver c. 1943.

I was able to find a daughter, Evelyn Coverdale and met with her and her son Jim on Oct. 10, 2001. Although 89 years of age Mrs. Coverdale has a very good memory and is very active - I tried to meet her on an earlier trip but she had two appointments that day and couldn't meet me! Her recollections are summarized as follows:

Her father, Diamante Zarelli was born in Italy in 1878, the youngest in his family. At the age of 18 he went to New York City where he spent two years. He had three brothers living in Victoria, B.C. [Joe, Diego, & Frank]. Joe the oldest, Diego second oldest. When Diamante heard of the Klondike gold strikes he came to Victoria. Note Diego's initial is also "D" but he remained in Victoria where he ran a shoe shine parlour.

Proceeding from Victoria to Skagway by boat, from there he went in by train into the Klondike. The train went off the rails. His travelling companion had a small dog with him. The companion suggested that they jump off the train and save themselves. They did this and survived, although the dog did not. Diamante received a bad head cut, but his companion bandaged it and he was okay. [Evelyn related that he called this the fastest train in the world, a comment I'm not sure I understand.]

In the Klondike Diamante was supposed to have worked in a number of places in the Yukon and in Alaska. He was also said to have worked in the saloon business at some time while there.

Diamante had two sisters; one, who was married, living in Prince Rupert and he moved there c. 1908. She wanted to go home for a visit and talked him into going with her, lending him the money to go. They returned to Italy where he was married in January 1909, to Rosina. He returned to Prince Rupert before his first daughter was born in November 1909. His wife, who spoke no English, travelled with her then five month daughter, Erminia [Ernie] to Seattle where Diamante met them in April 1910, and brought them to Prince Rupert. Louisa [Louise] was born in Prince Rupert in April 1911 and Avelina [Evelyn] was born in July 1912. Evelyn says that the family moved to Victoria when she was 6 [i.e. 1918] and she started school there. The family remained in Victoria for 3 years while Diamante "worked in the north." Unfortunately Evelyn does not know where Diamante was during those three years, but she said that he talked of

EDITORIAL

Our thanks go to Ron Greene for an interesting article to close out the year. Prompted by Ron Benice's series "Mystery Tokens," this is an excellent example of a collector accepting a challenge and sharing that information with all of us.

George Kritchen of Cordova does some follow up on Cordova tokens from "Mystery Tokens." Ferreting out information like this is time consuming. Special thanks to George for his efforts.

As the year draws to an end, it is time to acknowledge those that have contributed information this year. In order of their appearance, our thanks go to:

Doug Williams	R.W. Julian
Kurtis Hawk	Mr. Fuld
Jerry Schimmell	Richard Reisinger
Kurt Kusters	Ivan Thorl
Dr. Gheorghe Racovita	Brian Denman
Bryan E. Cleary	Candy Waugaman
Ron Benice	Susan W. Springer
Charles Kemp	Jerry Remick
Jim Robb	Ron Greene
Joe Levine	Dick Powell
Richard Crosby	George L. Kritchen
Peter Irion	Dave Phillips

If I have overlooked someone, I do apologize.

Also, as the year draws to a close, if your mailing label ends in **01/10** (indicating 2001/issue #10), it is time to renew. Please use the enclosed subscription form to renew your subscription. Other subscribers whose subscription does not expire with this issue will also receive a subscription form, prorated so that your subscription will end with 02/10. You may renew now, or we will send another notice when your subscription is about to expire.

If you choose to not renew your subscription, we would appreciate knowing why. If it is through some deficiency of ours, your comments could assist us in putting out a better product. Our thanks to you for your support in the years past. Perhaps we will be able to serve you again at a later time.

Despite the tragic events of the recent past, may you all find peace and joy with your family and friends this holiday season.

PRICES REALIZED

Below are the prices realized for the Alaska lots from our November 17 auction. Lots won by mail bidders are marked by an mb. Lots that were reduced from the high bid are marked with an *.

247	Circle City, Collins & Strait, B-1a	100
248	Haines, J.H. Chisel, B-4a	130mb*
249	Nome, CW B-11a	130mb*
250	(McGrath) Gus Gullikson, B-1a	40
251	Ladd AFB plastic token	40mb*
252	Nabesna, Nabesna Trading Co., B-1a	150mb*
253	Nome, N & A, B-34a	100mb*
254	Shakan, Shakan Lumber & Trd, B-2b	580mb*
255	Skagway, Board of Trade, B-4e	120mb*
256	Yukokakat, D.W. Lewis, B-1a	285mb*
257	Alaska Central Railway chit B-C1a	40
258	Alaska Gastineau Mining chits (5)	50
259	Alaska Home Railway chit, B-C3a	50
260	Copper River and NW Railway chit	95
261	Katalla Company chits	120mb*
262	Kennecott Copper Co. chit	145
263	Modern brass tags	10
264	Coal Dollar, 1921-D	50mb
265	Coal Dollar, 1923-S	35mb*
266	Encased Cent, Anita Garnick	70mb*
267	AYPE 1/4DWT gold token	85mb*
268	AYPE 1 DWT gold token	110mb*
269	Iditarod Winners Medals (3)	75
270	Pipeline Map	

Bid reductions for mail bidders totalled: \$597, an average of over \$40 per lot won by mail bidders.

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D. ZARELLI, cont.

working in Anchorage and that couldn't have happened in his earlier Klondike period. She thought that in 1918 he had been thinking of living and working in Victoria and bought a house there, but that it didn't work out so he went north.

Zarelli later ran the Royal Hotel in Prince Rupert, which he sold in November 1943. The family moved to Vancouver by the end of the year and Diamante retired. [listed as the New Royal Hotel from 1930]

Diamante had built another hotel, called the Royal Hotel in Gold Bridge [an interior BC town that is close to Bralorne and Pioneer. Pioneer was the most important gold mine in the valley.] while he was living in Prince Rupert. He had a partner running the hotel. The partner wanted out, so Diamante went up to Gold Bridge. Unfortunately the town virtually shut down during WW2, the mines were closed as men joined up or worked in essential service jobs. So he closed the hotel. After WW2 ended the mines started up once again so Zarelli reopened the hotel, but found it hard going - the miners would get rambunctious and he found he could no longer cope with that. His son-in-law, Coverdale, had helped him since returning from overseas. He then took over the hotel, but it was sold in 1949. Evelyn said both hotels were called the Royal Hotel, but showed me a picture of Diamante in front of the New Royal Hotel. Probably that is what they called it the Royal despite its full name.

The families moved to Seattle then to be closer to the older two daughters, but things didn't work out and they returned to Vancouver in 1952.

Diamante suffered a stroke about 2 years before he died. He was nursed by Evelyn and his wife, and recovered quite well. His wife survived him by quite a time as she lived to the age of 102. Evelyn looked after her for all but the last two years.

In summary, there is a good probability that Diamante Zarelli was the issuer of the D. Zarelli token in Anchorage. It is not a common name. He was in "the north" for three years c. 1918 to 1922, when the token was issued, spoke of being in Anchorage at some time and had previous experience in the retail tobacco business.

One last comment. I thought that I would try to find Zarelli in Alaska or the Yukon from his earlier time up there. While going through the Polk's Alaska-Yukon Gazetteer for 1903 to find Dimante I came across the following entry which is 5 years before he and Rosina were said to be married:

Mrs Rose Zarelli in Skagway, r. 630 - 5th avenue, page 254. So were they really married a half dozen years earlier, or was there another Rose Zarelli?

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CORDOVA FEEDBACK

George Kritchen of Cordova has provided the following information about some of the Cordova tokens in "Mystery Tokens, Part II."

Rainier Grand: December 26, 1914 ad. Harry Thisted, proprietor, manager, H.C. Ross treasure, George Dooley, secretary.

The Mint: January 5, 1914 ad. Thos. Davis, prop. Ads run through 1917.

Anchor Bar: Built in 1965 and still in business.

Cordova Bar or Cordova Hotel & Bar: an ad in the Cordova Alaskan, 1908 has Frank Castle and Harry Thisted as owners. A 1910 Cordova North Star ad has Thisted and Ross as owners.

When I came to Cordova in 1949 it was owned by Harry Nicholas. He sold it to the Theodore Bros., Frank and Chris. Later, they sold it to Harry Unison, and Harry sold it to Billy Reid. Unison had to take it back, and then sold it to Del Wickhan and his wife. They still own it and it is going strong. Some say the Cordova Hotel & Bar was built in 1905.

Old Crow, Smith's Confectionery and V. & A. Club: I could not find out anything about these.

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RED DOG WOOD

Dave Phillips of British Columbia wonders if the Red Dog wooden nickel in the last issue of ATC&PN might be from the Red Dog Saloon in Naknek. He has one from there, but it is not the same.

RARE SHELL-TYPE MEDAL



Rare engraving of a Walrus Hunt off the Ice Capes of Pikantlik
Original sketch by Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, U.S.N.
Engraving by G. White and J.C. McRae in 1854

The above engraving originally appeared in Kane's book "Arctic Explorations", 1856. It is reproduced, with caption, from "The Journal of American History," Third number, Third Volume, 1909.

The shell-type medal to the right was originally purchased from a Johnson & Jenson medallic art sale in the late 70s or early 80s. We have never seen another piece like it.

It quite obviously uses the engraving above as its subject. While the faces are quite featureless, the remaining details are nicely done. The walrus is in a rectangular opening in the ice. A hunter is on an elevated ice flow. A second hunter tends the line attached to the walrus's chest. A third nostril on the walrus is a little distracting.

The medal deviates from the original engraving, narrowing to only the hunters and walrus. A dog team is added in the background, and the ice flows in the background of the engraving become mountains on the medal.

The reverse of the medal is pressed in, showing where a positive die was used to force the thin metal into the negative die, allowing the design to be formed.



The medal is a bronzy-brass color, 70mm high by 55mm wide. It has a small crack in the rim at 3:00 that does not enter the design. The edges are a bit rough, but we believe this is pretty much as made. Actual wear is minimal.

We believe that this is a rare opportunity for the Arctic collector.

\$450.00